

November 2020
Vol. 79, No. 3
Meeting Monday, November 23



Our Theme for 2020-2021

**Equity & Diversity:
Moving Forward With Respect**

*Maria Murphy & Lori Jo Schneider
Co-Vice Presidents for Program*



Mission:

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

Diversity Statement: AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Board of Directors:

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**Maureen White*

*appointed

Kei-Che Randle, a recent UNI Public Health graduate, is the found of S.T.E.P.S., Songs To Enhance People Signing. Her vision is to bridge the gap between the deaf and hearing communities. She is passionate about intentional inclusion.

Kei-Che and her two children have recently relocated to the Oakland, CA, area. She will share her story navigating the world of communication difference.

The meeting will be held by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 23rd. Kei-Che's presentation will be prerecorded, and we will view it via YouTube. An invitation for the meeting will be emailed to members a few days before the meeting.

November 23 Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXcyREhjcjllOZlNQMUMmZjlCU0RQQT09>

Taking a Leadership Role

Past Presidents Kay Thrall and Arlene Prather-O’Kane are chairing the nominating committee this year. They are eager to find a president elect (or two individuals to serve together). We did not have a nominee for this position at our spring election.

Please see the job descriptions available on our Branch website (at <https://cedarfalls-ia.aauw.net/resources-2/resources/>) and nominate yourself and/or a friend to serve AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo in this role.

Gotcha Covered. Period.

Linda Morgan, Sandy Lawry, and Maureen White

The Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch started a new Community Action Project in 2019-20 called “Gotcha Covered. Period.” It was created to distribute feminine hygiene products and new underwear in public middle, junior high, and high schools in Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

We adopted the project when our research produced these findings:

- Some girls may miss school altogether because they don’t have menstrual products.
- Poverty is the prevailing reason for inability to access menstrual products. About 40% of U. S. girls live in low-income families and 19% live in poverty.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars cannot be used for personal care items.
- A package of products may cost as much as \$7.00.
- Low-income families may not be able to afford menstrual supplies because they cannot use SNAP for these purchases, so the girls go without supplies or construct them out of toilet paper, old t-shirts, diapers, paper towels, etc., which could endanger their health.
- Girls risk stained clothes and public ridicule when their period arrives unexpectedly at school.
- They may need clean undergarments in addition to menstrual supplies.
- Access to menstrual products allows girls to focus on learning and to be able to participate in after-school activities.
- Transgender and non-gender-conforming students may not have adequate access.
- As a part of her *Let Girls Learn* initiative, Former First Lady Michelle Obama linked menstrual inequity to girls’ productivity in school.

Here is our latest “monthly” report on this project. Pads, tampons and underwear were delivered to Karen Meacham, coordinator for Waterloo Community School District school nurses, on October 7. Also, supplies were given to Alicia Mason at Holmes Middle School when the CF School nurses met in October, so they are covered.

Literature

Joan Bunkofske

The Lit group will not meet this month. We plan to meet at the senior center when it is safe to do so.

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

Cochairs Judy Beckman and Mary Dove

On October 12, Cedar Valley Discuss Discover Diversity (CV3D) gathered at Lookout Park in Cedar Falls to discuss Tara Westover's memoir, *Educated*. Thank you to Pauline Harding for leading our discussion with eight other CV3D members.

Pictured at right are CV3Ders Joan Bunkofske, Kathryn Rogers, and Rowena Hardinger.



On Monday, November 9, CV3D will discuss Stuart Rojstaczer's novel, *The Mathematician's Shiva*. The discussion will be held at 4:30-5:30 via Zoom and will be led by Kathryn Rogers.

Is math like breathing to you? It is to the Karnokovitch family. In *The Mathematician's Shiva*, 70-year-old Rachela Karnokovitch is rumored to have solved the million-dollar Navier-Stokes Millennium Prize problem and has hidden the solution before she dies. Rojstaczer's characters are funny, clever, exciting, odd, and wise, and they all descend on Madison, Wisconsin, to sit shiva. This book will have us discussing marriage, loss, grief, privacy, obligations, cultural issues, gender roles, intellectuals. . . . But hopefully you laughed or

smiled or felt a little better while you read it. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and hope you join us on Monday, November 9, via Zoom.

An email invitation will be sent out on Friday, Nov. 6, with the link to join our Monday, Nov. 9, discussion.



All Cedar Valley residents are invited to read and discuss this book with the CV3D AAUW Community Action Project. For further

information contact Dr. Judy Beckman by e-mail at drjudy.beckman@cfu.net or Mary Dove at elybound1982@gmail.com.

Hard Won, Not Done T-Shirts Available

Linda Morgan, Vice President for Fundraising

Three more Hard Won Not Done t-shirts were sold in October, but it is not too late to purchase one as the centennial celebration continues. We still have 12 shirts available. At \$15 each, these would make excellent gifts and would benefit the Branch's scholarship students, as well.

In the women's/fitted style, there are 8 in size Medium and one in size Large (green, rose and blue). In the regular/unisex style, we have three green shirts (two size Small and one size 2X). Call or email Linda Morgan to buy.

Suffrage Sculpture Dedicated

Maureen White



Victoria Reed Nieman next to “The Binding” (photo by Kaye Englin)

Almost two years ago, Arlene Prather -O’Kane and Kay Thrall, representing AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo, met with representatives of other community organizations to discuss ideas to commemorate the August 26, 2020, centennial of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Cedar Falls-Waterloo 19th Amendment Centennial Committee decided to commission and install a sculpture at the Cedar Falls Woman’s Club and one at the Black Hawk County Courthouse. The sculptures were to commemorate all suffragists and to serve as a reminder that the work for women’s rights is not done. The committee aimed to commission artwork by women artists.

Designs submitted by Victoria Reed Nieman and Sarah Deppe, both UNI graduates, were selected

by the committee. Victoria’s sculpture, “The Binding,” was dedicated at the Woman’s Club on October 20, 2020. Instead of being able to invite donors and the public to the dedication, COVID-19 guidance meant the event had to be kept small, but KWWL and the Courier sent reporters to cover the dedication.

At the dedication and in her design proposal, Victoria discussed her inspiration. "I grew up with the idea in my head that equality was something that had already been earned for us, that generations past had paved the way for me and that way was now easier because of it. In truth, the fight for equality had only just begun, the problem was far more persistent and internal. The battle was not only with society but with ourselves and how we think and perpetuate our

own mythical shackles.” About the design she wrote, "This design utilizes a combination of stainless and mild steel (which acquires a rust patina as it ages). . . I think the varied material adds symbolic meaning. Patina points to history, the passage of time, tradition, and the idea of the antique, while the polish of the stainless would remain untouched by time, pristine and clean like inspiration and possibilities for the future."

If conditions allow, “We Rise,” Sarah Deppe's sculpture for the Courthouse, should be installed yet this fall. Plans for dedication of that sculpture will depend on current COVID-19 guidance and weather.

AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo was one of the early contributors toward the \$37,000 fundraising goal, with a generous donation of

\$3000. Many members donated as well. This project would not have been possible without the support of the branch and members as well as all the other donors. A huge thank you for your contributions.

Unfortunately, millions of people around the world have been impacted by this pandemic. The arrival of COVID and the sudden death last August of Barbara Brown, the instigator and co-chair for this project, also affected the work of the committee and of the artists. But like those who for 144 years after the 1776 Declaration of Independence and for 132 years after the 1778 ratification of the Constitution, worked tirelessly for this country to finally recognize the fundamental right of all women to vote, we persisted.



The sculpture on the day it was installed (photo by Maureen White)

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

The Cedar Valley All Read: *How to Be an Antiracist*

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D) was busy during the month of October. We discussed *Educated*, and many of you joined in the Cedar Valley All Read by reading, listening to a panel discussion, or joining in on a discussion of *How to Be an Antiracist*. CV3D would like to thank Pauline Harding for facilitating *How to Be an Antiracist*.

After reading *How to Be an Antiracist*, what have you learned or decided to put into practice? If you haven't read the book yet, you still have time. Discussion of *How to Be an Antiracist* will be on June 14, 2021:

Date	Book Title	Author
Nov 9	<i>The Mathematician's Shiva: A Novel</i>	Stuart Rojstaczer
Jan 11	<i>Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and our Lives Revealed</i>	Lori Gottlieb
Feb 8	<i>George Washington Carver: A Life From Beginning to End</i> or read a book of your choosing on GWC	Hourly History and Matthew J. Chandler-Smith
Mar 8	<i>The Nickel Boys: A Novel</i>	Colson Whitehead
Apr 12	<i>The Vanishing Half: A Novel</i>	Brit Bennett
May 10	<i>The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek: A Novel</i>	Kim Michele Richardson
June 14	<i>How to Be an Anti-Racist</i>	Ibram X. Kendi

Bridge for Education

Ardelle Brown & Claudia Kaestner

We still are not playing bridge this month. Including this month, we should have played 18 times (for those of us who play each time). AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch expected to add \$300 this year for scholarships. So if you would like to donate to AAUW CF-W, let's do it now.

Any member of the branch can be part of this game, whether you play bridge or not. Play solitaire safely at home and contribute all your winnings!

Send to our treasurer, Pat Higby, 718 Blue Jay Ct, Tiffin, IA 52340.

National AAUW Notice of Dues Change

Pat Higby, Treasurer

The national AAUW Board of Directors has voted to increase dues by \$3 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, \$5 for 2022-2023, and \$5 for 2023-2024. Thus the total national dues will be \$62, \$67, and \$72 respectively (\$83 total for next year). Considering a life membership? Doing that before July 1, 2021, will save you money!

According to national, the increased dues work out to an additional 25 cents per month, so not a really bad impact on our budgets!

I wanted to share this with you early, so you have time to adjust before we submit dues again next year.



Amy Hoyer, Co-President

It's almost over. Not the COVID 19 pandemic, not the season of Autumn which will bring another Iowa winter. Election campaign commercial season is almost over. You may have voted early, you may have voted on November 3rd, we may not know the outcome of the election for a while, but campaign ads will have ended and we can be grateful for that!

2020 has not been a stellar year on many fronts, but there are some things for which we can be grateful. We can be grateful for Zoom and the possibilities it creates. We are grateful the addition of the 19th amendment to the United

States Constitution, and the opportunity to celebrate the 100th anniversary of that event with the wonderful artwork that was recently dedicated in Cedar Falls. We continue to be grateful that another piece of artwork commemorating that event will soon be dedicated in Waterloo. We should be grateful for our organization and the fine work of our membership, past, present, future, and the relationships formed by our members. We are most grateful for each other especially as we approach a year of living through a pandemic.

This Thanksgiving season may be a hard one for many of us as we isolate to stay healthy, physically. Staying healthy mentally in isolation may not be that easy. If you know someone among us that may be struggling, let us know or get out your new orange membership book and make a call or drop a note to them. We can help each other.

With gratitude for the Suffragettes and their persistence to get through challenging times one hundred years ago, let us be reminded that we can get through these challenging times, together.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Did You Miss the Member Meeting on October 26?

Co-President Karen Agee

A recording of Tom Eachus' presentation at the October 2020 meeting is available on the Iowa AAUW page, <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net/>, at the link *Mental Health and Diversity*.

If you were not able to attend the meeting in person via Zoom, you can still access the presentation by longtime Black Hawk mental health professional Tom Eachus.

We owe thanks to Lois Enger, website manager of Iowa AAUW, who makes possible not only our Zoom meetings but also these recordings.

On the Iowa AAUW page you will see links to recordings made of programs presented to other branches in Iowa, too. You may view any and all of those programs.